

every year for 50% post graduate seats, as per the directions of the Honorable Supreme Court. The exam is taken by around 70,000 candidates and is conducted at 156 centres spread throughout the country. In order to make the exam foolproof, various precautionary measures are taken such as, use of metal detectors, pasting of photographs and left thumb impression of candidates on attendance sheets and issue of writing pens by the AIIMS. Further a large number of officers including faculty of AIIMS and group 'A' officers are deployed for conducting the examination. Though a few stray incidents of use of unfair practices have been reported in the past, in the recently conducted AIPGMEE-2012, use of technology for cheating came to the notice for the first time wherein the candidate, appearing for the test at one of the centres at NOIDA centre, had used blue tooth technology of his mobile phone for cheating. The invigilator confiscated the mobile phone and handed it over to the centre supervisor. Thereafter AIIMS reported the matter to the Delhi Police who have taken up its investigation by their crime branch.

Gas shortage in the country

*97. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that shortage of gas is likely to reach its peak in 2014-15, which is around 36 per cent of the unmet demand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to frame a transparent mechanism for pricing of natural gas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The total average daily availability of natural gas during 2010-11 from different sources was 162.1 mmcmd with largest share of 55.35 mmcmd being from KGD6. However, during the current year, the availability of gas from KG D6 which is the major source of natural gas has been steadily declining, with the present availability being around 36 MMSCMD during the month of January 2012. The availability of gas from KGD6 is expected to continuously decline in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Further, the availability of R-LNG fluctuates from time to time depending upon the demand, price, and tie-ups with suppliers. There is no significant increase expected in domestic production in the next two years.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to revise the price of natural gas. Presently, there are broadly two pricing regimes for gas in the country—gas priced under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) and non-APM or free market gas. The price of APM gas is set by the Government. As regards non-APM/free market gas, this could also be broadly divided into two categories, namely,

(i) imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and (ii) domestically produced gas from New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and pre-NELP fields. While the price of LNG imported under term contracts is governed by the Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) between the LNG seller and the buyer, the spot cargoes are purchased on mutually agreeable commercial terms. As regards NELP and pre-NELP gas, its pricing is governed in terms of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the contractor.

Proposal for raising MGNREGS wages

*98. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is actively considering to raise the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) from present Rs.150 per day to Rs.300 per day as demanded by various people's organisations and political parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is reducing the allocation under the scheme to States on the pretext of non-utilization of fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken by Government so that all the State Governments take proper steps for full utilization of sanctioned grant under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e): Provisions of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are effected as demand driven schemes, to be prepared and implemented by the State Governments. There is no allocation of funds to States. Funds are released to States as per their requirements which is assessed on the basis of advance projection of labour demand., MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee of wage employment to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work subject to an overall ceiling of 100 days of employment per household in every financial year. Para 1 of Schedule-II of MGNREG Act stipulates that adult members of every household who reside in rural areas and are willing to do unskilled manual work may apply for registration of their household for issuance of a job card. However, under the Act, mere issuance of a job card does not entitle a household to receive employment. Under Para 9 of Schedule II of the Act, the household also has to submit application for work to be entitled to receive employment. As employment